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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 15, 2009

Mr. Timothy W. Manning, Deputy Administrator
DHS/FEMA/National Preparedness Directorate
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

RE: City of Elyria, Ohio SAFER Grant Application

Dear Mr. Manning:

As the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency considers applications for the Staffing for Adequate and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant program, I would like to bring to your attention a request submitted by the City of Elyria's Fire Department.

Faced with tough economic challenges, the city laid off 17 firefighters and lost six more to retirement in 2009. The Elyria Fire Department's proposal seeks to hire six replacement firefighters and rehire the 17 displaced workers. These staffing levels are crucial for the adequate protection of the more than 50,000 residents of the City of Elyria, the 15th largest city in the State of Ohio.

Please give serious consideration to the fire department's application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of this application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

SB: lm